

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

- 5 acquisition means for acquiring said data from a storage unit in said information management apparatus when said data is not dependent upon a machine kind of said device, and acquiring said data from a storage unit in said device when said data is dependent upon the
10 machine kind of said device; and

transmission control means for controlling so that said data acquired by said acquisition means may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

- 15 2. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of said device, said acquisition means transmits a request of said data to said device, and receives said data from said device.

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3. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- judgment means for, when said data is transmitted in response to a request from said external apparatus,
25 judging, on the basis of identification information for identifying said data, included in said request, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said

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information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment means, said acquisition means acquires said data from the storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

4. The information management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said identification information is a path name, and

said judgment means judges, on the basis of a directory part included in said path name, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device.

5. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

judgment means for judging, on the basis of a list indicating said data dependent upon the machine kind of said device, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment means, said acquisition means acquires said data from the storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

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6. The information management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said identification information is URL-inscribed.

5 7. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data is transmitted to said external apparatus, based on HTTP.

10 8. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a network board is attached to said device.

15 9. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data is requested from said external apparatus, based on document data for display for displaying information on said device by a browser.

20 10. The information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said device is a laser beam printer.

25 11. A device control apparatus for providing data indicating information on a device, in response to a request, comprising:
 judgment means for judging an equipment

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construction of said device; and

specifying means for specifying, of a plurality of data indicating the equipment construction, data corresponding to the equipment construction judged by

5 said judgment means,

wherein the data specified by said specifying means is data to be provided in response to the request.

10 12. The device control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said device control apparatus connects with an information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on said device to an external apparatus, and in response to a request from said information management apparatus, provides data to said
15 information management apparatus.

20 13. The device control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said information management apparatus is a network board attached to said device.

14. The device control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and
corresponding data exists by each combination of
25 attached paper feed apparatus.

15. The device control apparatus according to

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claim 11, wherein said judgment means judges a connection of option equipment attached to said device, and data provided in response to a request indicates a connection state of option equipment.

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16. The device control apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a laser beam printer.

10 17. An information management apparatus for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, characterized by comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring an equipment construction of said device from said device, and

15 control means for controlling so that a syntax for displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition means may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

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18. The information management apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and

25 in accordance with the attached paper feed apparatus, a syntax for displaying information on said paper feed apparatus is included in said document data.

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19. An information management apparatus for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring an equipment
5 state of said device from said device, and
control means for controlling so that a message
corresponding to the equipment state acquired by said
acquisition means may be included in said document data
and said document data may be transmitted to said
10 external apparatus.

20. The information management apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

message acquisition means for acquiring a message
15 dependent upon a machine kind of said device, which is
said message, from said device.

21. An information management method for transmitting data indicating information on a device to
20 an external apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring said data from a
storage unit in said information management apparatus
when said data is not dependent upon a machine kind of
said device, and acquiring said data from a storage unit
25 in said device when said data is dependent upon the
machine kind of said device; and

a transmission control step of controlling so

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that said data acquired by said acquisition means may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

22. The information management method according
5 to claim 21, wherein, when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of said device, said acquisition step transmits a request of said data to said device, and receives said data from said device.

10 23. The information management method according to claim 21, further comprising:

15 a judgment step of, when said data is transmitted in response to a request from said external apparatus, judging, on the basis of identification information for identifying said data, included in said request, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device,

20 wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires said data from the storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

24. The information management method according
25 to claim 23, wherein said identification information is a path name, and

said judgment step judges, on the basis of a

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directory part included in said path name, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device.

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25. The information management method according to claim 21, further comprising:

10 a judgment step of judging, on the basis of a list indicating said data dependent upon the machine kind of said device, as to whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said information management apparatus or stored in the storage unit in said device,

15 wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires said data from the storage unit in said information management apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

20 26. The information management method according to claim 23, wherein said identification information is URL-inscribed.

25 27. The information management method according to claim 21, wherein said data is transmitted to said external apparatus, based on HTTP.

28. The information management method according to claim 21, wherein said information management method

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is executed on a network board attached to said device.

29. The information management method according to claim 21, wherein said data is requested from said external apparatus, based on document data for display for displaying information on said device by a browser.

30. The information management method according to claim 21, wherein said device is a laser beam printer.

31. An information management method for providing data indicating information on a device, in response to a request, comprising:

a judgment step of judging an equipment construction of said device; and
a specifying step of specifying, of a plurality of data indicating the equipment construction, data corresponding to the equipment construction judged by said judgment step,

wherein the data specified by said specifying step is data to be provided in response to the request.

32. The information management method according to claim 31, wherein said information management method is executed on a device control apparatus connects with an information management apparatus for transmitting data indicating information on said device to an external

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apparatus, and in response to a request from said information management apparatus, provides data to said information management apparatus.

5 33. The information management method according to claim 32, wherein said information management apparatus is a network board attached to said device.

10 34. The information management method according to claim 31, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and corresponding data exists by each combination of attached paper feed apparatus.

15 35. The information management method according to claim 31, wherein said judgment step judges a connection of option equipment attached to said device, and data provided in response to a request indicates
20 a connection state of option equipment.

36. The information management method according to claim 31, wherein said device is a laser beam printer.

25 37. An information management method for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

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an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of said device from said device, and

5 a control step of controlling so that a syntax for displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

10 38. The information management method according to claim 37, wherein the equipment construction concerns a paper feed apparatus attached, and

15 in accordance with the attached paper feed apparatus, a syntax for displaying information on said paper feed apparatus is included in said document data.

39. An information management method for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

20 an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment state of said device from said device, and

25 a control step of controlling so that a message corresponding to the equipment state acquired by said acquisition step may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

40. The information management method according

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to claim 39, further comprising:

a message acquisition step of acquiring a message dependent upon a machine kind of said device, which is said message, from said device.

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41. A computer-readable memory medium in which a program for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus is stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

- 10 an acquisition step of acquiring said data from a storage unit in said information management apparatus when said data is not dependent upon a machine kind of said device, and acquiring said data from a storage unit in said device when said data is dependent upon the
- 15 machine kind of said device; and

a transmission control step of controlling so that said data acquired by said acquisition means may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

- 20 42. The memory medium according to claim 41, wherein, when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of said device, said acquisition step transmits a request of said data to said device, and receives said data from said device.

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43. The memory medium according to claim 41, said program causing the computer to further execute:

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a judgment step of, when said data is transmitted
in response to a request from said external apparatus,
judging, on the basis of identification information for
identifying said data, included in said request, as to
5 whether said data is stored in the storage unit in said
information management apparatus or stored in the storage
unit in said device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by
said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires said
10 data from the storage unit in said information management
apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

44. The memory medium according to claim 43,
wherein said identification information is a path name,
15 and

said judgment step judges, on the basis of a
directory part included in said path name, as to whether
said data is stored in the storage unit in said
information management apparatus or stored in the storage
20 unit in said device.

45. The memory medium according to claim 41,
said program causing the computer to further execute:

a judgment step of judging, on the basis of a
25 list indicating said data dependent upon the machine kind
of said device, as to whether said data is stored in the
storage unit in said information management apparatus or

stored in the storage unit in said device,

wherein, in accordance with a judgment result by
said judgment step, said acquisition step acquires said
data from the storage unit in said information management
5 apparatus or the storage unit in said device.

46. The memory medium according to claim 43,
wherein said identification information is URL-inscribed.

10 47. The memory medium according to claim 41,
wherein said data is transmitted to said external
apparatus, based on HTTP.

48. The memory medium according to claim 41,
15 wherein said information management method is executed on
a network board attached to said device.

49. The memory medium according to claim 41,
wherein said data is requested from said external
20 apparatus, based on document data for display for
displaying information on said device by a browser.

50. The memory medium according to claim 41,
wherein said device is a laser beam printer.
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51. A computer-readable memory medium in which a
program for providing data indicating information on a

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device, in response to a request, is stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

a judgment step of judging an equipment construction of said device; and

- 5 a specifying step of specifying, of a plurality of data indicating the equipment construction, data corresponding to the equipment construction judged by said judgment step,

wherein the data specified by said specifying
10 step is data to be provided in response to the request.

52. A computer-readable memory medium in which a program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus is
15 stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of said device from said device, and

- a control step of controlling so that a syntax for displaying the equipment construction acquired by
20 said acquisition step may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

53. A computer-readable memory medium in which a
25 program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus is stored, said program causing a computer to execute:

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an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment state of said device from said device, and

a control step of controlling so that a message corresponding to the equipment state acquired by said acquisition step may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

54. An information management program for transmitting data indicating information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition step of acquiring said data from a storage unit in said information management apparatus when said data is not dependent upon a machine kind of said device, and acquiring said data from a storage unit in said device when said data is dependent upon the machine kind of said device; and

a transmission control step of controlling so that said data acquired by said acquisition means may be transmitted to the external apparatus.

55. An information management program for providing data indicating information on a device, in response to a request, comprising:

a judgment step of judging an equipment construction of said device; and

a specifying step of specifying, of a plurality

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of data indicating the equipment construction, data corresponding to the equipment construction judged by said judgment step,

wherein the data specified by said specifying
5 step is data to be provided in response to the request.

56. An information management program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

10 an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment construction of said device from said device, and

a control step of controlling so that a syntax for displaying the equipment construction acquired by said acquisition step may be included in said document
15 data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.

57. An information management program for transmitting document data for displaying information on a device to an external apparatus, comprising:

20 an acquisition step of acquiring an equipment state of said device from said device, and

a control step of controlling so that a message corresponding to the equipment state acquired by said
25 acquisition step may be included in said document data and said document data may be transmitted to said external apparatus.